

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAN SA 04327 192321Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSCE-00 MCT-02 SY-02
SSO-00 CIAE-00 HA-02 INR-05 INRE-00 /044 W
-----061047 192346Z /66

O 192225Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9296
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 4327

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS SHUM ASEC ES SW
SUBJ: KIDNAPPED SWEDISH EXECUTIVE: INITIAL RANSOM PAYMENT MADE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 4326, STATE 211399, STOCKHOLM 3213

1. WIFE OF KIDNAPPED SWEDISH BUSINESS EXECUTIVE KJELL BJORK THIS MORNING DROVE PRESCRIBED ROUTE IN BORROWED CAR OF USG EMPLOYEE, WAS EVENTUALLY STOPPED BY YOUNG PEOPLE (DESCRIBED AS WELL DRESSED AND WELL MANNERED) AND MADE DELIVERY OF WHAT WE ASSUME TO HAVE BEEN FIRST HALF OF \$800,000 RANSOM DEMAND. SHE WAS THEN LEFT THERE, TOLD WHERE SHE COULD PICK UP THE CAR, AND 45 MINUTES LATER DID RECOVER SAME.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WIFE WAS HANDED SOME MESSAGE OF REASSURANCE WRITTEN BY HER HUSBAND. IT INDICATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SOME MEDICATION FROM CAPTORS (WIFE HANDED OVER MORE OF SAME). GENERAL IMPORT WAS THAT HE IS BEING WELL TREATED.

3. SWEDISH OFFICIALS AND ERICSSON ARE NOT BEING PARTICULARLY FORTHCOMING WITH US. AMBASSADOR'S PHONE CALL TO MFA STOCKHOLM (PRESUMABLY IN SWEDISH) WAS MADE IN FACE OF OUR CLEAR
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WARNING TO THEM THAT TELEPHONE CALLS HERE ALMOST CERTAINLY MONITORED AND REITERATION OF OUR OFFER OF CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATION FACILITIES. WIFE OF KIDNAPPED EXECUTIVE, PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLY IN LIGHT OF HER HUSBAND'S STILL UNCERTAIN STATUS, IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS HER EXPERIENCE. AS RESULT OF THESE FACTORS, WE ARE OPERATING AND REPORTING UNDER CERTAIN HANDICAPS WHICH WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL UNDERSTAND.

4. USG EMPLOYEE'S SITUATION SEEMS TO US MOMENTARILY EASED. KIDNAPPERS SHOWED NO INTEREST OR DISMAY OVER HIS REPLACEMENT AT WHEEL OF CAR AND MERELY ASKED MRS. BJORK IF SHE WERE WIFE OF KIDNAPPED EXECUTIVE. FACT THAT FIRST PHASE OF TRANSFACTION SEEMS TO HAVE GONE OFF SMOOTHLY PROBABLY ELIMINATES PROSPECT OF RETALIATION AGAINST HIM AT THIS TIME. WE THEREFORE SEE NO NEED FOR HIS IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE. BUT IN VIEW OF FACT KIDNAPPERS HAVE DONE ALL THEIR HOMEWORK ON HIM AND COULD TAKE HIM AT ANY TIME AS NEXT KIDNAP VICTIM, PLUS FACT HE IS DUE FOR DEPARTURE IN SEPTEMBER FOR NEW POST OF DUTY, WE PLAN EXPEDITE HIS TRANSFER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER PRESENT KIDNAPPING EPISODE TERMINATES.
DEVINE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MS P. ROBINSON.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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